

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 569

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IT

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR HIGH-LEVEL INTERVIEW

1. IL GIORNALE, ONE OF ITALY'S MOST SERIOUS, RESPECTED, AND BALANCED NEWSPAPERS, IS PLANNING MAJOR OVERVIEW OF "CHANGING US ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE." PAPER'S WORKING PREMISE, AS REFLECTED IN RECENT COMMENTARIES, IS THAT MID-EAST, PORTUGAL, WATERGATE, AND INDO-CHINA EVENTS HAVE SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED US TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP AND US HAS BEHAVED IRRESPONSIBLY IN WORLD SCENE THROUGH EXCESS OF SELF-CRITICISM. PAPER NOW AMONG THOSE MOST SHARPLY QUESTIONING US CAPACITY FOR WORLD ROLE AND STRONGLY SUGGESTING THAT US RETREATING INTO ISOLATIONISM. ENZO BETTIZA, GIORNALE'S LEADING FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANALYST, WANTS TRAVEL US FOR HIGHEST LEVEL POSSIBLE INTERVIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS.

2. AS PERSON WHO REPEATEDLY WARNED US NOT TO DUMP NIXON IN WATERGATE RECRIMINATIONS BECAUSE SUCH WOULD DEPRIVE US OF EFFECTIVE PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP, BETTIZA WANTS INTERVIEW FORMER PRESIDENT ALTHOUGH HE AWARE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD. HE WISHES DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY ONLY AND NOT INTERESTED IN WATERGATE DETAILS.

3. BETTIZA ALSO WISHES HIGH-LEVEL INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN, WINSTON LORD, OR DEP. ASST. SEC. LWENSTEIN, OR EVEN HIGHER IF POSSIBLE.

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4. FYI- BETTIZA IS AMONG TOP THREE FOREIGN POLICY COMMENTATORS IN ITALY, A RESPONSIBLE AND WIDELY-HEEDED VOICE. ALTHOUGH WE DISPUTE HIS BELIEF THAT US NOT LIVING UP TO RESPONSIBILITIES, HIS CRITICISM IS REPRESENTATIVE OF STRONG AND GROWING SEGMENT OF INFLUENTIAL OPINION HERE. WOULD BE DECIDEDLY IN OUR INTEREST TO ADDRESS THAT THEME WITH BETTIZA AND GIORNALE.

5. BETTIZA PREPARED TO TRAVEL AT MOMENT'S NOTICE IF SATISFACTORY HIGH LEVEL INTERVIEW ARRANGED WITH ONE OR MORE OF ABOVE. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.BEAUDRY

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